The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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I am aware of nothing that has a right to be called an impossibility.—Thomas B. Huxley.

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LET WORKERS AROUSE NATION WITH COAL FACTS

Because of the basic character of the industry and the number of workers involved, the anthracite strike is the most important immediate issue before the trade union movement.

In former coal strikes the cry was raised that the public has no information on this industry. This point is not made now.

The United States coal commission, appointed by the president, investigated the coal industry a few years ago at a cost of $600,000. Every fact has been compiled. Profits and capitalization of prospective profits, wages, fatalities, excessive values, capitalization of unused coal lands, preferential freight rates—all are in possession of the government.

This report indicts the operators. No longer do we hear the cry: "Let the public know the facts on coal."

The miners have summarized this report, joined it with their experience and knowledge and are giving this information to the public.

President Green of the A. F. of L. has called on organized labor to form study classes that they may secure this information.

Workers will then be equipped to discuss coal with their fellow citizens. They can offset propaganda injurious to the welfare of 160,000 workers who daily risk their lives to supply the nation's anthracite coal.

The operators must be challenged in their policy of freezing the people and smashing the Miners' union.

The operators must not be permitted to develop an angry public opinion that will justify hostile legislation or other unfair action against the Miners' union.

Attacks of this character affect every other organized worker.

If the miners can be driven back to work by a manufactured hate, so can other workers, when privilege is so inclined.

The quickest way for the public to get coal is to understand the coal industry; to know the facts of inordinate profits, inflated values and the thousands of workers annually killed and injured in this industry.

Trade unionists everywhere can help the miners—and themselves—by acting on President Green's suggestion.

One member of a local can initiate this movement. He can discuss it informally with his fellows and then call a meeting of those who are interested (and who is not?) in coal.

The one purpose of these meetings should be to discuss coal, and the miners' strike.

Read the literature that President Green has forwarded. Have it discussed, explained and understood.

Continue this agitation in the shops, in street cars, with business men, church men, professional men and wherever people gather.

Newspapers, ever alert to what the people are interested in, will begin presenting the workers' side.

This is how public opinion is formed. The anthracite miners must not be engulfed by the wave of propaganda that is backed by a greed-crazed combination.

Unions To Study Coal Industry; Will Offset Manufactured Hate

Washington, Nov. 7.—In a letter to A. F. of L. affiliates, President Green calls on the organized wage earners to form study classes to discuss the coal question, that they may develop public opinion in favor of striking anthracite mine workers.

This is a new trade union tactic and accords with the Atlantic City convention, which instructed the A. F. of L. executive council to give every possible aid to the miners.

A simple procedure in the formation of these classes is recommended. All unionists will be enrolled who agree to meet regularly "for, let us say, five successive meetings," said President Green. The members shall designate the hour and place of meeting and choose their own chairman or leader.

With the letter are speeches, in pamphlet form, by President Lewis of the United Mine Workers. These summarize points at issue and give a general outline of the coal industry.

"Coal is a basic industry," said President Green. "A stoppage in coal concerns the whole nation, and public opinion becomes a deciding factor. As a citizen, therefore, you have a responsibility to help inform public opinion as facts may indicate.

"What is the truth about this situation? What are the facts about coal?

"When you have mastered these facts, bring them to the attention of your neighbor.

"Tell him, also, the truth about the great risks of this industry.

"Two miners are killed every day!

"Sixty miners are injured each working day!

"Tell your neighbor of the miner's service to the community. Sixty thousand of these communities along the Atlantic seaboard alone are supplied with anthracite coal.

"Sympathetic public opinion is necessary to win this strike. You can help in creating an intelligent public opinion in your community on this issue by telling the truth about coal and the coal miners.

"If you want additional information about forming study classes or about books, write to the American Federation of Labor or to the Workers' Education Bureau, 476 West 24th street, New York City."

STRIKES CAN BE JUSTIFIED; NO DEFENSE FOR ACCIDENTS

The strike can be upheld from a moral and a monetary standpoint. There is no excuse for the industrial accident.

The deadliness of these accidents is again emphasized by a report issued by the state of Washington, which shows that the "reported" accidents in that state, last year, total 40,000, with a total time loss of 677,131 working days.

On a basis of 275 working days in a year, this is equivalent to 2,500 idle workers throughout 1924. This economic waste is in but one state.

The Washington report does not include occupational diseases or the many ills that can be traced to a weakening of the wage earners' resisting powers because of poor working conditions.

Strikes attract public attention, but the deadly industrial accident is ignored.

Many statistics are published on strike losses, but these figures are invariably incorrect because practically every industry is seasonal and the normal output is maintained over the year, either by the employer involved or by his competitors.

This is not true of the silent, crushing industrial accident that not only causes loss of time, but destroys life or forever weakens the worker.

The strike is a protest against injustice and wrong. It can be supported from the standpoint of ethics.

The industrial accident is indefensible from every standpoint. It is a triumph for ignorance and greed.

FORMER MUCKRAKER DEFENDS 12-HOUR DAY

New York, Nov. 7.—It is easy to convince those who want to be convinced.

Take the case of Ida M. Tarbell, for instance. Her 355-page biography of Judge Gary, head of the steel trust, glowingly depicts this wondrous man who wanted to place workers on the eight-hour day, but they insisted on the 12-hour system which was the rule before the steel trust was organized. The judge feared a strike, so he refrained from enforcing his humane desire.

To support this claim, Miss Tarbell quotes a steel worker, whose name and record for truthfulness is, unfortunately, overlooked by the enthusiastic biographer.

Miss Tarbell makes no reference to Judge Gary's refusal to concede the eight-hour day years ago until forced to do so by a public opinion that was created through the steel workers' nation-wide strike. This proves Gary's refusal to meet representatives of his employes at that time. He said he believed in the anti-union shop.

The biography is temperate in tone, in contrast to Miss Tarbell's "History of Standard Oil," written 20 years ago in the most artistic muckraking style. At that time she painted John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and his oil associates in murky colors.

STRIKE PROFITS ASSURED OWNERS; URGING SALE OF THEIR SOFT COAL

Philadelphia, Nov. 7.—"It is immaterial to anthracite operators whether the public burns anthracite or bituminous during the anthracite strike," said John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, in a letter to General Berry of the New York State Coal commission.

The letter followed the anthracite operators' appeal to the public to burn bituminous coal.

The trade unionist shows that the anthracite operators are heavily interested in West Virginia and central Pennsylvania non-union mines and they are now urging public consumption of this product while they smash the Miners' union in the anthracite fields.

"The consumer's money goes into the same pockets, no matter what he does," said President Lewis. "If he burns anthracite, these operators sell it to him. If he burns bituminous, these operators sell it to him. It is just as easy to gouge with the left hand as with the right hand. It is the old bear trap arrangement that gets the consumer coming and going.

"The anthracite operators are the loudest of all advocates of soft coal as a substitute for anthracite.

President Lewis lists a large number of anthracite operators who are heavily interested in the non-union fields of central Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The number includes Wm. W. Inglis, chairman of the anthracite operators' scale conference. He refused to take part in the miners' wage negotiations prior to the strike.

"It is not strange that the anthracite operators are urging the use of West Virginia and central Pennsylvania bituminous coal," said President Lewis.

"If they can induce the public to accept this advice they can sell their bituminous and perhaps make the same enormous profit as when they sell anthracite.

"When the anthracite strike began southern West Virginia operators were selling their bituminous for $3 and $3.50 a ton at the mines. But as soon as these anthracite operators, who own mines in West Virginia, started their campaign for the use of bituminous as a substitute for anthracite, the price of bituminous was boosted to $6 and $6.50 for sizes the public is compelled to use."

MANY LIVES SAVED BY MINERS' STRIKE

Washington, Nov. 7.—The strike of 160,000 anthracite miners may cause hardships, but it has reduced the number of widows and fatherless children in the hard coal section. When these workers are employed, two are killed and sixty are injured every working day.

Reports by the United States bureau of mines reflect the effect of this strike, which began September 1. During that month only 42 lives have been lost, and all of these were in bituminous fields. Not one life was lost, or a single accident was reported from the anthracite fields.

The bureau states that 1,612 men have been killed by coal mine accidents during the first nine months of 1925.

Hindu Caste System For America Urged By Truckling "Educators"

Chicago, Nov. 7.—Organized labor is jubilant over the A. F. of L. convention's indorsement of its opposition to the intelligence test that is being urged in Chicago's public schools. That advocates of this theory favor the Hindu caste system is indicated by one of its defenders, Dr. G. B. Cutten, president of Colgate university, Hamilton, New York:

"It may be interesting to speculate concerning the effect of mental tests upon the problem of democracy. If the present hopes and expectations are realized THEY WILL RESULT IN A CASTE SYSTEM AS RIGID AS THAT OF INDIA, but on a rational and just basis.

"When the tests for vocational guidance are completed and developed, each boy and girl in school will be assigned to a vocation to which he is fitted, and presuming that the tests are really efficient, he will in the future not attempt any work too advanced for his ability and hence will not suffer a failure of it, neither will he be found in any occupation too elementary for his ability and hence be dissatisfied.

"ECONOMICALLY, NOTHING COULD BE MORE DESIRABLE.

"Those of high intelligence will be directed into lines of occupation which call for leadership. Those persons will naturally be placed in the professions, and in leading positions in industry, commerce and politics. Each person will then be directed on a scale of intelligence down to those whose work is of the most routine character of which an imbecile is capable.

"What will be the effect of this upon democracy? It must inevitably destroy universal adult suffrage by cutting off at least 25 per centage of the adults, those whose intelligence is so low as to be incapable of comprehending the significance of the ballot.

"On the other hand, it will throw the burden and responsibility of the government where it belongs, on those of high intelligence, and we come back again to the rule of the aristocracy—this time the real and not fatal aristocracy.

"For its own salvation the state must assume the obligation and responsibility of educating this intellectual aristocracy, and having selected it, seeing that it is properly trained."

Trade Board Sees No Bread Trust; Plan For Super Combine Goes On

Washington, Nov. 7.—The people are excited over the $400,000,000 bread trust, says the federal trade commission. One of the commission's attorneys examined officers of the three corporations alleged to be involved and he denies that the General Baking company, the Ward Baking corporation, the Continental Baking corporation and "possibly the Standard Baking corporation" had been or were to be merged or consolidated into a $400,000,000 corporation to be known as the General Baking corporation.

The federal trade commission says "there is no truth in the press reports." It finds, however, that Mr. Ward—acting as an individual—has offered to take over the General Baking company.

This is the usual procedure in trustification, and the commission says the consummation of Mr. Ward's plan "seems quite probable, according to present indications."

A Maryland corporation is organized to act as a holding company for this stock. When public agitation dies down it can quietly take over the other corporations, and the super bread trust will be complete, so per predictions.

Stock in the General Baking company sold for $2 a share in 1916. Stock dividends have increased this stock six for one.

At the Atlantic City convention of the A. F. of L. the bread merger was condemned, and former declarations against the anti-union Ward concern were affirmed. The convention declared that these combinations "have been engaged on the one hand in fighting union labor and on the other of attempting to keep the price of bread up to high levels; that even during the periods of greatest depression in agriculture, when the farmer was compelled to sell his wheat and other grain at a loss, they have maintained wartime prices for their finished products.

"These profits are in great measure concealed by the formation of new companies and the issuance of large volumes of stock with no basis behind it than hope of ability to continue this extortion.

"Ability to arbitrarily fix the price of bread is ability to say how much and when men may eat. It is a violation of the common law and the law of self-defense that if permitted to go unchecked must be a menace to all."

The convention instructed the executive council to urge congress to investigate the proposed trust, and that in advance of the meeting of congress the president be asked to prevent the formation until such time as congress may act.

VALUE OF UNION LABEL IMPRESSED ON GERMANS

Washington, Nov. 7.—The delegation of German trade unionists who are visiting the United States are impressed with the union label and its power.

The German unions have no label. The visitors expressed the belief that this agitation will be effective in their country.

Several of the Germans called on the A. F. of L. union label trades department and were given literature and information on the formation and methods of the department by Secretary-Treasurer Manning.

Anton Erkelenz of Dusseldorf, union machinist and a member of the German reichstag, who is touring this country, is also enthusiastic over the union label.

"We have the Socialist, the neutral and the Catholic trade unions in our country," he said. "We disagree on some things, but on this we can unite. I can see that it means more than organizing our purchasing power. Agitation for the union label must include the story of injustice to labor."

DEATHS IN QUARRIES

Washington, Nov. 7.—Last year 138 workers were killed and 14,777 injured in the quarries of this country, according to the United States bureau of mines. The total number of men employed during the year was 94,000. This is a little more than an average of one accident or death for every six men employed.

YELLOW FEVER FOE DIES

Havana, Nov. 7.—Dr. Juan Guiteras, Cuba's foremost medical man and yellow fever foe, died here. He aided General Gorgas of the United States army in stamping out yellow fever in Cuba, following General Gorgas' triumph over this scourge in Panama.

TRADE UNIONS ARE MANY SIDED

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

There are many questions of a political, social and economic character which occupy the public's attention, but none more vital than that of organized labor. It is associated with industry and permeates the social, civic and economic life of all communities. Its importance can not be minimized nor can its influence upon our national life be accurately measured or correctly appraised.

The voice of organized labor, increasing in volume and power, is heard in the councils of the nation and the judgment of its administrative agencies is sought by those who direct the affairs of government and by the leaders of organizations engaged in promoting various humane organizations. This great movement, as represented by the A. F. of L., assumes to speak for all working men and women. It speaks directly for the millions of unorganized workers whose voices are inarticulate and whose standard of life are greatly influenced by the success or failure of organized labor.

The A. F. of L. is constantly carrying the message of organized labor to the millions of workers in all vocations and callings who are outside the fold of organized labor. Today it is launching a campaign of organization and education through which it hopes not only to arouse great public interest in the work of organized labor, but, in addition, to increase its numerical strength and economic power.

The workers seek for comfortable and happy homes. They seek wholesome food, proper clothing and the ownership of their homes. They seek to promote cultural life through the protection of children and through education and the application of those refining processes which come through education and understanding. They seek to enhance spiritual values and to promote spiritual welfare; not, perhaps, in a literal, religious sense, but in the development of the spiritual side of the nature of men and women, so that they will aspire to a realization of their purposes.

The hope of a better day and a better life, the aspiring toward the enjoyment of higher and better things, the yearning for the unseen and the unrealized and the elevation of life to a higher and nobler standard are all implanted in the spiritual nature of working people.

There may be those who charge organized labor with being materialistic and with seeking only the promotion of material things. They are entertaining a mistaken idea. To the contrary, organized labor emphasizes the idealistic side of life, using only the materialistic for the purpose of advancing and promoting the cultural, the spiritual and the recreational phases of human life.

JOB HARRIMAN IS DEAD

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 7.—Job Harriman, nationally-known labor attorney and candidate for vice president on the Socialist party ticket in 1900, died at Sierra Madre, a little town northeast of here. Death was due to tuberculosis, from which he suffered for years. He was 64 years old.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW VOID, RULES WYOMING COURT

Cheyenne, Wyo., Nov. 7.—The legislature can pass an eight-hour law for labor on public works, but the present act is "unenforceable," says the Wyoming state supreme court.

The decision was made in the case of a paving contractor in this city. The court says the act can not be enforced "because of the undefiniteness and uncertainty of its penal provisions, which conflicts with the federal and state constitutions.

Until the law is amended public works contractors will have a free hand to enforce the long work day, although eight hours has been the accepted standard in Wyoming for many years.

40,000 ACCIDENTS IN 1924

Seattle, Nov. 7.—During the past year there were 40,000 accidents reported to the department of safety and industrial relations, according to Martin J. Pirak, supervisor of the branch of state government.

These accidents caused a total loss of 677,131 working days. Compensation amounted to $3,685,675.48. The report does not include accidents that were not reported.

ROADS TO CEASE BUS FIGHT

Chicago, Nov. 7.—Railroad managers who feature pooh for alleged opposition to labor-saving machinery, are waging a futile fight against the motor bus, according to Vice President Spens of the Burlington railroad.

The railroad official advised managers to adopt the motor bus as part of the railroad transportation system.

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS PROFESS LOFTY IDEALS

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 7.—The National Association of Manufacturers has joined the happy throng whose only object in life is to serve their fellow men. It seems but yesterday that these anti-unionists were condemned by a committee of the United States senate for corrupt practices to defeat remedial legislation.

But this is ancient history. The manufacturers have turned over a new leaf. They scorn profit and personal gain—they love their employes and the public. At their convention in this city they announce the new revelation:

"The highest purpose in American industry is not to make profit but to bring betterment of conditions to the worker as well as the employer and to make its product available to the public at a cost as low as possible.

Hereafter the health and safety of the worker will be guarded, and he will be "given incentive for advancement along lines suited to his ability."

These beautiful sentiments must not be connected with the manufacturers' stereotyped declarations against collective bargaining, the child labor amendment and the right of workers to cease their employment.

The right of the individual worker to bargain as an individual with the steel trust, the harvester trust and other combinations of capital is reaffirmed.

This is "an essential part of our national heritage of liberty," says these recruits to the "service" brigade.

BANKERS SET ASIDE OWNERS OF INDUSTRY

New York, Nov. 7.—Bankers disagree with Prof. W. Z. Ripley's claim before the Academy of Political Science that the drift of corporate management is toward "irresponsible control by intermediaries—most commonly bankers, so-called—in place of the former responsibility for direction which, theoretically, at least, rested upon the shoulders of the actual owners."

The statement is of especial interest to wage earners who are assured when they buy stock in the corporation that employs them that they will eventually gain control the establishment, and that in the meantime by pooling their stock they can secure representation on the board of directors.

Prof. Ripley says large corporate financings by banks have placed them in control of these corporations, and by naming the directors they can dictate policies.

The present plan of having the public buy stock in public utility corporations diffuses this ownership and helps the few to more easily control, he said.

HIGH RENTS CAUSE STRIKE

Washington, Nov. 7.—High rents caused the recent general strike in Panama, according to reports from Panama trade unionists to Frank Green. The strike was an unauthorized mass movement that swept through the city.

The large number of unemployed made matters worse and a dozen persons were killed or injured, in accordance with a treaty agreement between Panama and the United States, troops from the latter nation aided in restoring order at the request of the president of Panama.

URGE U. S. AIR CONTROL

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 7.—Government control of the air was favored at a meeting of American Engineering council officials here.

"There is no reason," said Prof. Joseph W. Roe of New York university, "why the astonishing success attained by American automobile manufacturers should not be repeated in the commercial aircraft field."

COLLECTION COSTS OFFSET SMALL TAXES

Washington, Nov. 7.—Congressman Garner denies Secretary Mellon's claim that small income taxes exceed the cost of collection. The Texas lawmaker says the collection costs are higher than the total payments of 1,000,000 small tax payers and that it would be good business for the government to do away with taxes on incomes lower than $5,000.

"HELLO" GIRLS WIN

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 7.—Organized telephone operators have secured a new agreement. Wages are increased and working conditions improved.

WILL FOREIGN MONOPOLIES FORCE WORLD TRADE WAR?

Erie, Pa., Nov. 7.—Will the United States government avowedly abandon its traditional hands-off attitude toward business to meet an international trade war?

This possibility was suggested by Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, in an address to business men here on the new trade policy of foreign governments.

These countries are fixing the price of raw material of which they have a monopoly. The system is a development of war times when government control checked hoarding and profiteering. As an aid to their business men, the foreign governments have established themselves in certain industries and increased prices and limit production of their monopolized raw material.

These combinations, said Secretary Hoover, exist in coffee, silk, nitrate, potash, rubber, quinine, iodine, tin, sisal, some dyestuffs, quicksilver, certain extracts for tanning leather and other raw material not produced in the United States. This country spends $800,000,000 annually for imports of material controlled by foreign governments.

Secretary Hoover said that if it were necessary to adopt retaliatory measures this country could revise its traditional policy of competition on the basis of production and encourage the establishment of combinations "with the view of getting back compensating amounts from helpless farmers and consumers, or in other words, gouge those nations that insist on gouging us.

The speaker gave an insight of how international business is braided up with international politics and diplomacy.

He said that every day for the past year our government has received complaints from American business men against the policy of other governments.

"And at once," said Secretary Hoover, "we have higgling of merchants lifted to the plane of international relations, with all of its spawn of criticism and hate."

LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS LIKE WAGE STATUTE

Seattle, Nov. 7.—The organized employers of this state announce that they will not take advantage of the United States supreme court's decision in which the Arizona minimum wage law for women was set aside.

The Arizona act provided for a wage of $16 a week. The Washington minimum is $13.20 a week.

"There is no need for anti-union employers of this state to assure us they will not oppose our minimum wage law," says the State Labor News, official journal of the state federation of labor.

"The state has been rendering these employers all the service needed to provide a starvation wage for our women workers without any assistance from the United States supreme court.

"The decision has served as a good lesson to wage earners.

"There is but one tried and proven method of providing proper protection for the workers of either sex—organization within the trade union movement."

ALIEN PROPERTY SCANDAL MAY ECLIPSE TEAPOT DOME

Washington, Nov. 7.—The indictment of Thomas W. Miller, former alien property custodian, by a New York federal grand jury, has possibilities of a scandal that may dwarf the Teapot Dome upheaval. The indictment has to do with German property in this country that was seized by the United States to stop it from falling into the hands of the central powers during the war. The property was supposed to be returned when peace was declared.

Miller is charged with bribery involving approximately half a million dollars, but the indictment may be but the opening wedge in a scandal that may include influential members of both parties. Behind the indictment are stories of factional struggles in the administration party with senatorships and governorships as prizes.

Miller was known in Washington as one of the "Ohio crowd," following the Harding inauguration. Included in the crowd were Attorney General Daugherty and Secretary of the Interior Fall, two of whom were forced to resign from the cabinet, following the oil exposures; Colonel Forbes of the veterans' bureau, who was convicted of graft charges; Jesse Smith, pal of Daugherty, who committed suicide, and Elmer Dover, who was ousted from the treasury department.

The value of the alien property is placed at $600,000,000. Much of this has passed into private hands or has been wasted by fee-grabbing lawyers and politicians.

As several senators and representatives have publicly denounced these methods, a congressional investigation seems inevitable.

'STEENTH REVOLUTION POSTPONED IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Nov. 7.—The American negro labor congress, widely heralded by the communists, developed into a handful of persons who could be crowded into a street car of the one-horse type.

The pathetic little gathering listened to appeals to race prejudice and condemnation of the A. F. of L. generalities were the order of the day. The regulation collection was not overlooked, however, and received little columns of publicity on the latest revolution, and the gathering adjourned.

The collapse of the so-called congress is due in large measure to President Green's warning against this movement.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

Sioux Falls, S. D., Nov. 7.—Newspaper publishers and the stereotypers' union have signed a new contract. The rate is $43 a week for foremen and $38 for journeymen. This is an advance of $3 and $2.

DISCUSS FLIVVERS, HENRY!

New York, Nov. 7.—Labor unions are organized and used by Wall street, according to Henry Ford, in a special dispatch to the New York Times.